

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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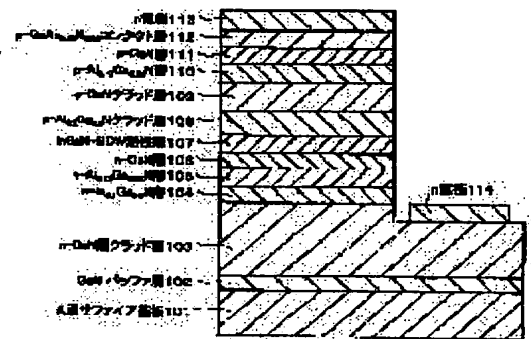
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(54) NITRIDE SEMICONDUCTOR LIGHT-EMITTING ELEMENT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a reliable nitride semiconductor light-emitting element which can operate at low voltage, while decreasing contact resistance by a p-type or n-type GaN_{1-x}As_x layer ($0 < x < 0.2$) or InGaN_{1-x}As_x layer ($0 < x < 0.2$) at a part which touches a metal electrode.

SOLUTION: A p-type or n-type GaN_{1-x}As_x layer ($0 < x < 0.2$) or InGaN_{1-x}As_x layer ($0 < x < 0.2$) is employed as a semiconductor layer 112 at a part, touching a metal electrode. The contact layer 112 comprises a high quality p-type GaN_{1-x}As_x crystal, having a band gap which is one half that of GaN and a thickness equal to or shorter than a critical film thickness. Consequently, the width and the height of Schottky barrier at the hole in the interface of the metal electrode and the semiconductor contact layer can be halved. This structure significantly decreases the contact resistance of a nitride semiconductor light-emitting element and provides a working voltage close to that of an LD element formed on an ordinary GaAs substrate. Since heating is suppressed during operation, the threshold value, temperature characteristic and reliability of a nitride semiconductor laser are enhanced.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

- [Claim 1] The semi-conductor layer of the part which touches a metal electrode in the light emitting device using the nitride semi-conductor of a GaN system is GaN1-X AsX of p mold or n mold. A layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) or InGaN1-X AsX Nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by being a layer ($0 < X < 0.2$).
- [Claim 2] Two or more GaN1-X AsX from which the As presentation X differs [said semi-conductor layer] A layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) or InGaN1-X AsX Nitride semi-conductor light emitting device according to claim 1 characterized by combining and constituting the layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) so that it may become large as the As presentation X approaches an electrode.
- [Claim 3] Said semi-conductor layer is GaN1-Y PY of p mold or n mold. A layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) or InGaN1-Y PY Nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by being a layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$).
- [Claim 4] Two or more GaN1-Y PY layers ($0 < Y < 0.2$) or InGaN1-Y PY from which the P presentation Y differs [said semi-conductor layer] Nitride semi-conductor light emitting device according to claim 3 characterized by combining and constituting the layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) so that it may become large as the P presentation Y approaches an electrode.
- [Claim 5] The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device of claim 1-4 to which thickness of said semi-conductor layer is characterized by being 100nm or less by 1nm or more given in any 1 term.
- [Claim 6] The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device of claim 1-5 further characterized by adjoining each layer and coming to form an intermetallic-compound epitaxial layer between said metal electrodes and said semi-conductor layers given in any 1 term.
- [Claim 7] The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device according to claim 6 to which it is characterized by said intermetallic-compound epitaxial layer being nickel0.5 In0.5 or nickel0.5 0.5 (In1-W TiW) ($0 < W < 1$).
- [Claim 8] The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device according to claim 6 or 7 to which thickness of said semi-conductor layer is characterized by being 200nm or less by 2nm or more.
- [Claim 9] said semi-conductor layer — one layer ($0 < X1 < 0.2$) of GaN1-X1AsX(s) of p mold — a well — the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by being the superstructure object of a layer and the GaN1-X2AsX two-layer ($0 < X2 < X1 < 0.2$) barrier layer of p mold.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to a nitride semi-conductor light emitting device. It is related with the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device effectively used as semiconductor laser in more detail.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The light emitting diode (LED) using the nitride semi-conductor of a GaN system is already produced commercially, and, as for current, research of the laser diode (LD) of a GaN system nitride semi-conductor is advanced energetically. For example, L217 page of Japanese journal OBU applied physics magazine 35 volumes will have the report entitled "the InGaN multiplex quantum well structure laser diode which has a cleavage mirror resonator side" in 1996. Drawing 14 shows the cross-section structure of the nitride semiconductor laser diode component of the GaN system indicated by this. This is the report of the room temperature pulse oscillation in the oscillation wavelength of 415nm of GaN system nitride semiconductor laser. Since wavelength is short compared with the conventional red LD, GaN system nitride semiconductor laser attracts the big attention as the light source for pickup of the optical disk unit of the next generation which has high recording density.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, the operating voltage in the oscillation threshold current value of this laser is still very as high as 30V. This is because the contact resistance of a p mold GaN contact layer and p electrode is mainly large. Drawing 9 is the sectional view showing typically the band structure of a metal electrode and a p mold GaN semi-conductor boundary side. The big shot key barrier is between GaN and a metal electrode. The band gap of GaN is large and especially its shot key barrier of a hole is large. Especially in order to attain the room temperature continuous oscillation of GaN system nitride semiconductor laser, it is indispensable to reduce the contact resistance by the side of p, to realize OMIKKU contact, and to lower the operating voltage of laser. This invention is made in view of the above-mentioned problem, and contact resistance is small, and low-battery actuation is possible, and it aims at offering the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device which has high-reliability.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The semi-conductor layer of the part which touches a metal electrode in the light emitting device using the nitride semi-conductor of a GaN system according to this invention in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose is GaN1-X AsX of p mold or n mold. A layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) or InGaN1-X AsX The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by being a layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) is offered.

[0005] Moreover, two or more GaN1-X AsX from which the As presentation X differs [said semi-conductor layer] as the desirable mode A layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) or InGaN1-X AsX The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by combining and constituting the layer ($0 < X < 0.2$) so that it may become large as the As presentation X approaches an electrode is offered.

[0006] Moreover, said semi-conductor layer is GaN1-Y PY of p mold or n mold as the desirable mode. A layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) or InGaN1-Y PY The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by being a layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) is offered.

[0007] Moreover, two or more GaN1-Y PY from which the P presentation Y differs [said semi-conductor layer] as the desirable mode A layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) or InGaN1-Y PY The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by combining and constituting the layer ($0 < Y < 0.2$) so that it may become large as the P presentation Y approaches an electrode is offered.

[0008] Moreover, the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device to which thickness of said semi-conductor layer is characterized by being 100nm or less by 1nm or more as the desirable mode is offered.

[0009] Moreover, the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by adjoining each layer and coming to form an intermetallic-compound epitaxial layer is further offered between said metal electrodes and said semi-conductor layers as the desirable mode.

[0010] Moreover, the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device to which said intermetallic-compound epitaxial layer is characterized by being nickel0.5 In0.5 or nickel0.5 0.5 (In1-W TiW) ($0 < W < 1$) as the desirable mode is offered.

[0011] Moreover, the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device to which thickness of said semi-conductor layer is characterized by being 200nm or less by 2nm or more as the desirable mode is offered.

[0012] furthermore -- as the desirable mode -- said semi-conductor layer -- one layer ($0 < X1 < 0.2$) of GaN1-X1AsX(s) of p mold -- a well -- the nitride semi-conductor light emitting device characterized by being the superstructure object of a layer and the GaN1-X2AsX two-layer ($0 < X2 < X1 < 0.2$) barrier layer of p mold is offered.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained concretely. In this invention, $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ ($0 < X < 0.2$) of p mold or n mold, $\text{InGa}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ ($0 < X < 0.2$), $\text{GaN}_{1-Y}\text{PY}$, and ($0 < Y < 0.2$) $\text{InGa}_{1-Y}\text{PY}$ ($0 < Y < 0.2$) are used as a semi-conductor layer of the part which touches a metal electrode. The p mold GaN is explained below. By putting several% of As into GaN, a band gap can be made smaller than GaN. However, if the As presentation X is increased, it is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$. A layer produces grid mismatching gradually. Drawing 10 is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$. It is the graph which shows the relation between the As presentation X and the amount epsilon of lattice strains. For example, the deformation amount of 0.04 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ on GaN becomes 3.4%. Drawing 11 is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$. It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of a band gap. The band gap of 0.04 layer of this drawing to $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ is 2.63eV, and it turns out that only about 0.77eV of band gaps is small from the URUTSU mold GaN. The height of the shot key barrier of the hole of a metal electrode and a semi-conductor contact boundary side can be made small by using the small ingredient of a band gap for a contact layer so that it may understand from the cross section of the band structure of the metal electrode shown in drawing 9, and a p type semiconductor boundary side.

[0014] Drawing 12 is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$. It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of critical thickness. Since a GaN system ingredient is very hard, the critical thickness of a GaN system ingredient is larger than the critical thickness of a GaAs system ingredient. Drawing 12 shows that the critical thickness of 0.04 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ is 16nm, for example. Since the thickness of the 0.04-layer contact layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ of the example of this invention is 15nm, it is below critical thickness. It is necessary to control As presentation and to carry out for obtaining a good crystal, at the thickness below critical thickness. For example, 1nm - 100nm is desirable. $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ of this invention A contact layer is a good crystal with which a band gap has critical below thickness thickness small, as shown in the top.

[0015] If a band gap is a small and good crystal below critical thickness, more high-concentration p doping can be performed. As shown in drawing 9, the contact layer of high p doping concentration has the operation which makes small width of face of the shot key barrier of the hole of a metal electrode and a semi-conductor contact boundary side. If the width of face of the shot key barrier becomes small, the contact resistance of a component will decrease and the operating voltage of a component will become small. Therefore, $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ of this invention The nitride semi-conductor light emitting device which has a layer contact layer has the description of low resistance and low operating voltage actuation compared with a component without it. It is very effective when attaining the room temperature continuous action of semiconductor laser, since generation of heat at the time of actuation is suppressed by this.

[0016] $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ The intermetallic-compound ($0 < W < 1$) layer of $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ ($\text{In}_{1-W}\text{TiW}$) etc. has the same high electrical conductivity as a metal. $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ The grid mismatching deformation amount with GaN of the usual URUTSU mold is $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ which is 2% and has the tensile strain of a thin film on GaN. Epitaxial growth is possible. $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ ($\text{In}_{1-W}\text{TiW}$) Since GaN of a URUTSU mold and the lattice constant within a field can be made in agreement by adjusting the Ti presentation W, the intermetallic-compound layer of a thick film can be formed. $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ of a compressive strain a contact layer — a GaN layer and $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ $\text{nickel}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ ($\text{In}_{1-W}\text{TiW}$) etc. — if it is made the structure inserted by the intermetallic-compound epitaxial layer, in order that a distorted contact layer may support from both sides by the lattice matching layer — a rearrangement — entering — being hard — critical thickness increases twice. Drawing 13 is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ sandwiched by the lattice matching layer from both sides. It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of critical thickness. The curve shown by the dotted line is a critical thickness curve when not being inserted from both sides. Above-mentioned $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ with a small band gap with the larger As presentation X than a contact layer A contact layer is obtained or it is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$. It turns out that the thickness of a contact layer can be increased twice. For example, by inserting 0.08 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ from both sides by the lattice matching layer in this way, the critical thickness of 0.08 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ increases from 4.3nm to 19nm. Drawing 11 shows that the band gap of 0.08 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ is 1.917eV. This is equal to the magnitude of the band gap of GaInP which carries out lattice matching to a GaAs substrate. 1019cm - three sets of high concentration p doping are possible for this GaInP. It means that the band gap of a contact layer had decreased only by about 1.5eV by using 0.08 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ since the band gap of GaN was 3.4eV. This is a twice [in 0.04 layer of $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ described previously] as many decrement as this.

[0017] After all, as stated in the top, these intermetallic-compound epitaxial layers are used, and it is $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ from both sides. By pinching a contact layer, the contact resistance of LD component decreases further and it is effective in operating voltage becoming small. The thickness of the intermetallic-compound layer in this case has desirable 5-200nm. Moreover, the thickness of the semi-conductor layer at the time of using this intermetallic-compound layer has desirable 2-200nm.

[0018]

[Example] Hereafter, an example explains this invention still more concretely.

[Example 1] drawing 1 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semi-conductor light emitting device (LD) of the 1st example of this invention. As shown in drawing 1, the GaN system LD Ath page silicon on sapphire 101 with a thickness of 350 micrometers, the GaN buffer layer 102 of 30nm of thickness, the n-GaN layer 103 of 3 micrometers of thickness, the n-In_{0.1}Ga_{0.9}N layer 104 of 100nm of thickness, n-aluminum_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}N layer 105 of 400nm of thickness, The n-GaN layer 106 of 100nm of thickness, the InGa_{0.5}N/GaN-MQW barrier layer 107, the p-aluminum_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}N cladding layer 108 of 20nm of thickness, the p-GaN layer 109 of 100nm of thickness, the p-aluminum_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}N cladding layer 110 of 400nm of thickness, It consists of the p-GaN cladding layer 111 of 500nm of thickness, the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 of 15nm of thickness, a p electrode 113, and an n electrode 114. the InGa_{0.5}N-MQW barrier layer 107 — 2.5nm In_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}N — a well — it is the multiplex quantum well (MQW) layer of 20 periods of a layer and a 5nm In_{0.05}Ga_{0.95}N barrier layer. p dopant used for each class is Mg, and n dopant is Si. The description of this invention is to have the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}

contact layer 112 of 15nm of thickness.

[0019] The above-mentioned LD is producible using an organic metal gaseous-phase epitaxial (MOVPE) grown method or a gas source molecular-beam PITAKISHARU (GSMBE) grown method. The production approach of the above-mentioned LD component of the 1st example of this invention by the MOVPE method is described below. The manufacture approach described below also in subsequent examples can be used. In V group raw material, they are NH₃, AsH₃, and III. Trimethylindium (TMIn), trimethylgallium (TMGa), and trimethylaluminum (TMAI) are used for a group raw material. In p dopant raw material, it is SiH₄ to CP2 Mg and n dopant raw material. It uses.

[0020] At first silicon on sapphire 101 is first introduced into the coil which is a deposition chamber, and it is H₂. Carrier gas was passed to the coil. After carrying out the temperature up of the substrate to 1150 degrees C and overheating for 10 minutes in the condition, it lowers to 550 degrees C, and it is NH₃. TMGa was introduced and the GaN buffer layer 102 of 30nm of thickness was grown up. Then, H₂ Substrate temperature is raised to 1000 degrees C, passing carrier gas to a coil, and it is NH₃. TMGa and SiH₄ It introduces and the n-GaN layer 103 of 3 micrometers of thickness is grown up. Although there was no less than 14% of grid mismatching in silicon on sapphire and GaN, crystalline good GaN was obtained by growing up the GaN buffer layer 102 of low-temperature growth first, and controlling the thickness. Next, TMIn was introduced and the n-In_{0.1} Ga_{0.9} N layer 104 of 100nm of thickness for cracking prevention was grown up. Thus, sequential growth was carried out. The p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 which is the description of this invention is NH₃. AsH₃ TMGa and CP2 Mg were introduced and were grown up. p-doping concentration was made or more [5x10¹⁸cm⁻³] into three. The crystal of the good quality within critical thickness was obtained by setting layer pressure of the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 to 15nm. After growth drove out H atom which performed heat annealing at the temperature of 600 degrees C for 1 hour, and was incorporated during the crystal, activated Mg, and raised p concentration.

[0021] The temperature fall after growth termination was slowly performed so that silicon on sapphire might not break. After taking out a wafer, it etched by having attached the p electrode 113 on the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112, the n electrode 114 was attached in the n-GaN layer 103, and LD component was obtained. The structure of the body containing the barrier layer of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the following examples is common, and a contact layer only differs from the part of an electrode. Therefore, this invention is applicable to LD of the structure of arbitration.

[0022] [Example 2] drawing 2 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 2nd example of this invention. As shown in drawing 2, except that only the parts of the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 differ, it is the same LD structure as the 1st example. That is, the 2nd example is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the structure which transposed the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 of 15nm of thickness of the 1st example to the step contact layer 204 which consists of the p-GaAs_{0.01}N_{0.99} contact layer 201 of 20nm of thickness, a p-GaAs_{0.02}N_{0.98} contact layer 202 of 5nm of thickness, and a p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 203 of 10nm of thickness. In the step contact layer 204, the magnitude of the band gap of a contact layer is becoming small gradually according to increase of As presentation. Thereby, since the rapid band gap difference of the p-GaN cladding layer 111 and the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 203 can be eased, resistance of a component can be lowered.

[0023] [Example 3] drawing 3 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 3rd example of this invention. As shown in drawing 3, it is LD of the structure which transposed the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 112 to the p-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 301 of 20nm of thickness, and is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the same structure as the 1st example except it. GaPX N1-X It has the property in which a band gap falls greatly with the increment in the P presentation X. Moreover, since there are few deformation amounts to GaN than GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}, GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96} has the advantage which can take the large thickness of a contact layer.

[0024] [Example 4] drawing 4 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 4th example of this invention. As shown in drawing 4, it is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the structure which transposed the step contact layer 204 of an example 2 to the step contact layer 404 which consists of the p-GaP_{0.01}N_{0.99} contact layer 401 of 5nm of thickness, a p-GaP_{0.02}N_{0.98} contact layer 402 of 5nm of thickness, and a p-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 403 of 12nm of thickness. By the step contact layer 404, since the rapid band gap difference of the p-GaN cladding layer 111 and the p-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 403 can be eased, resistance of a component can be lowered.

[0025] [Example 5] drawing 5 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 5th example of this invention. As shown in drawing 5, it is nickel_{0.5} In_{0.5} of 15nm of thickness between the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 501 of 15nm of thickness, and the p electrode 113. It is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of an example 1 and this structure except having structure whose intermetallic-compound layer 502 was pinched. nickel_{0.5} In_{0.5} The intermetallic-compound layer 502 is a tensile strain, since the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 501 is a compressive strain, by combining these, distorted compensation is carried out, it suits, and the whole deformation amount is reduced. The crystal structure of these intermetallic compounds is a CsCl mold, and differs from the sphalerite mold crystal structure of III-V compound semiconductors, such as GaAs and InP, or the URUTSU mold crystal structure of GaN. However, nickel_{0.5} In_{0.5} Lattice constant 3.1 Lattice constant 3.16 within a field of the URUTSU mold GaN Since it is almost equal, the epitaxial growth to a GaN top is possible. It carries out on the growth conditions which the p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96} contact layer 501 mentioned above. However, since the crystal growth of the intermetallic-compound thin film on GaN is the heteroepitaxial growth of heteroatom structure, different growth conditions from usual are required for it.

[0026] The growth approach of the intermetallic-compound layer on GaN used for below in this example is described. Since the front face of a GaN semi-conductor layer is covered by the monoatomic layer of Ga, the amount of the residual

V group of a deposition chamber is fully dropped and one atomic layer of nickel which is next the transition metals of an intermetallic-compound layer is grown up in case an intermetallic-compound layer is grown up on GaN, it is nickel_{0.5}In_{0.5}. The intermetallic-compound layer was grown up. Growth temperature of an intermetallic-compound layer was performed at low temperature. If it is migration enhancing DOEPI taxi (MEE) growth and is about 350 degrees C and MBE growth, it is about 450 degrees C. However, in the intermetallic-compound layer of a lattice matching system, MEE growth may be carried out on InP at the growth temperature of about 250 degrees C.

[0027] [Example 6] drawing 6 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 6th example of this invention. As shown in drawing 6, it is nickel_{0.5}In_{0.5} of an example 5. nickel_{0.5} 0.5 of 50nm of thickness which carried out lattice matching of the intermetallic-compound layer 502 to GaN (TIX In_{1-X}) It is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of an example 5 and this structure except having structure replaced in the intermetallic-compound layer 602. nickel_{0.5} 0.5 (TIX In_{1-X}) By pinching the p-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92} contact layer 501 in the intermetallic-compound layer 602, reduction of a 1.5eV band gap is realizable. nickel_{0.5} 0.5 (TIX In_{1-X}) Since lattice matching of the intermetallic-compound layer 602 is carried out to GaN, it is quality and can form the epitaxial electrode of the intermetallic compound of a thick film.

[0028] [Example 7] drawing 7 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 7th example of this invention. nickel_{0.5} 0.5 of 10nm of thickness which carried out lattice matching to the p-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92} contact layer 701 of 19nm of thickness, and GaN as shown in drawing 7 (TIX In_{1-X}) The intermetallic-compound layer 702 and nickel_{0.5}In_{0.5} of 10nm of thickness nickel_{0.5} 0.5 of the intermetallic-compound layer 703 and 50nm of thickness which carried out lattice matching to GaN (TIX In_{1-X}) It is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode which has the contact layer structure which consists of an intermetallic-compound layer 704. nickel_{0.5} 0.5 of 10nm of thickness which carried out lattice matching to GaN (TIX In_{1-X}) The intermetallic-compound layer 702 is the p-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92} contact layer 701 and nickel_{0.5}In_{0.5}. It is a relaxation layer for improving the abrupt change [layer / 703 / intermetallic-compound] of interface distortion.

[0029] [Example 8] drawing 8 is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 8th example of this invention. it is shown in drawing 8 — as — p-GaAs of the p-GaAs_{0.01}N_{0.99} barrier layer 801 of 5nm of thickness, and 3nm of thickness — nickel_{0.5} 0.5 of 50nm of thickness which carried out lattice matching to the superlattice contact layer 804 and GaN of five periods of a layer 802 0.92 well 0.08 N (TIX In_{1-X}) It is the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode which has the contact layer structure which consists of an intermetallic-compound layer 803. Since a hole can penetrate the superlattice contact layer 804 of 40nm of thickness in a resonance tunnel and can reach a metal electrode, contact resistance reduces it.

[0030]

[Effect of the Invention] The contact layer in this invention is good p mold GaN_{1-X}As_X which has the band gap of the one half of GaN, and has the thickness below critical thickness. It is a crystal. Since the band gap is small, three or more [5x10¹⁸cm⁻³] high-concentration p doping can be performed. nickel_{0.5}In_{0.5} used for this invention nickel_{0.5} 0.5 (In_{1-X}TIX) etc. — an intermetallic-compound layer — GaN_{1-X}As_X in order to support on both sides of a distorted contact layer in a GaN layer — a rearrangement — entering — being hard — critical thickness increases twice. Therefore, GaN_{1-X}As_X with a more small band gap A layer can be used for a contact layer. Consequently, a metal electrode, the width of face of the shot key barrier of the hole of a semi-conductor contact boundary side, and height can be reduced by half. The contact resistance of a nitride semi-conductor light emitting device decreases greatly, and the operating voltage near LD component on the usual GaAs substrate is obtained by this. Consequently, since generation of heat at the time of actuation is suppressed, the room temperature continuous action of nitride semiconductor laser can be attained. In addition to it, the threshold of nitride semiconductor laser, the temperature characteristic, and dependability can be raised remarkably.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 1st example of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 2nd example of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 3rd example of this invention.

[Drawing 4] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 4th example of this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 5th example of this invention.

[Drawing 6] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 6th example of this invention.

[Drawing 7] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 7th example of this invention.

[Drawing 8] It is the sectional view of the GaN system nitride semiconductor laser diode of the 8th example of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the sectional view showing typically the band structure of a metal electrode and a p type semiconductor boundary side.

[Drawing 10] GaN1-X AsX It is the graph which shows the relation of the As presentation X and the amount epsilon of lattice strains of a layer.

[Drawing 11] GaN1-X AsX It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of a band gap.

[Drawing 12] GaN1-X AsX It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of critical thickness.

[Drawing 13] GaN1-X AsX inserted from both sides It is the graph which shows the As presentation X of a layer, and the relation of critical thickness.

[Drawing 14] It is the sectional view showing the structure of the nitride semiconductor laser diode component of the conventional GaN system.

[Description of Notations]

101 Ath Page Silicon on Sapphire

102 GaN Buffer Layer

103 N-GaN Layer

104 N-In0.1 Ga0.9 N Layer

105 N-aluminum0.15Ga0.85N Layer

106 N-GaN Layer

107 InGaN/GaN-MQW Barrier Layer

108 P-aluminum0.2 Ga0.8 N Cladding Layer

109 P-GaN Layer

110 P-aluminum0.15Ga0.85N Cladding Layer

111 P-GaN Cladding Layer

112 P-GaAs0.04N0.96 Contact Layer

113 P Electrode

114 N Electrode

201 P-GaAs0.01N0.99 Contact Layer

202 P-GaAs0.02N0.98 Contact Layer

203 P-GaAs0.04N0.96 Contact Layer

204 Step Contact Layer

301 P-GaP0.04N0.96 Contact Layer

401 P-GaP0.01N0.99 Contact Layer

402 P-GaP0.02N0.98 Contact Layer

403 P-GaP0.04N0.96 Contact Layer

404 Step Contact Layer

501 P-GaAs0.04N0.96 Contact Layer
502 Nickel0.5 In0.5 Intermetallic-Compound Layer
602 Nickel0.5 0.5 (TIX In1-X) Intermetallic-Compound Layer
701 P-GaAs0.08N0.92 Contact Layer
702 Nickel0.5 0.5 (TIX In1-X) Intermetallic-Compound Layer
703 Nickel0.5 In0.5 Intermetallic-Compound Layer
704 Nickel0.5 0.5 (TIX In1-X) Intermetallic-Compound Layer
801 P-GaAs0.01N0.99 Barrier Layer
802 P-GaAs0.08N0.92 Well — Layer
803 Nickel0.5 0.5 (TIX In1-X) Intermetallic-Compound Layer
804 Superlattice Contact Layer
901 Conduction Band
902 Fermi Level
903 Valence Band
904 Width of Face of Shot Key Barrier
905 Height of Shot Key Barrier
906 Hole
907 Metal Electrode
908 P Type Semiconductor Layer

[Translation done.]

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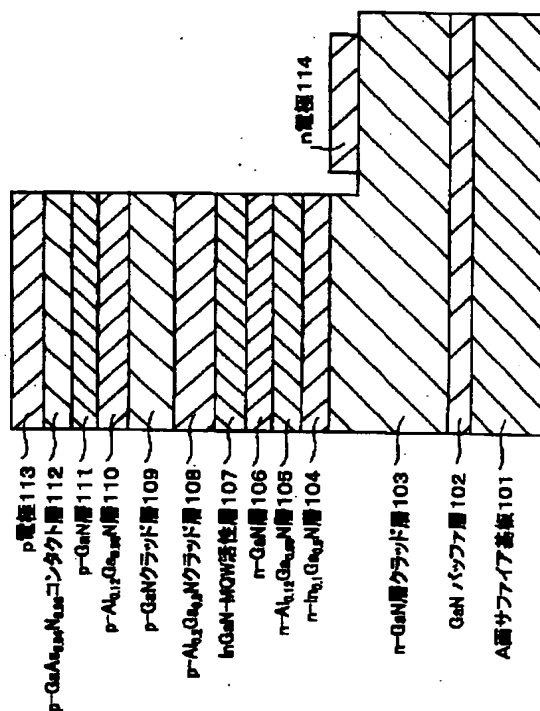
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(54)【発明の名称】 窒化物半導体発光素子

(57)【要約】

【課題】 接触抵抗が小さく、低電圧動作が可能で、かつ高信頼性を有する窒化物半導体発光素子を提供する。

【解決手段】 GaN系の窒化物半導体を用いた発光素子において、金属電極と接する部分の半導体層を、p型またはn型の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) とする。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 GaN系の窒化物半導体を用いた発光素子において、金属電極と接する部分の半導体層が、p型またはn型の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項2】 前記半導体層が、As組成Xの異なる複数の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) を、そのAs組成Xが電極に近づくに従って大きくなるように組み合わせて構成されていることを特徴とする請求項1記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項3】 前記半導体層が、p型またはn型の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項4】 前記半導体層が、P組成Yの異なる複数の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) を、そのP組成Yが電極に近づくに従って大きくなるように組み合わせて構成されていることを特徴とする請求項3記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項5】 前記半導体層の層厚が、1nm以上で100nm以下であることを特徴とする請求項1～4のいずれか1項記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項6】 前記金属電極と前記半導体層との間に、さらに金属間化合物エピタキシャル層を、それぞれの層に隣接して形成してなることを特徴とする請求項1～5のいずれか1項記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項7】 前記金属間化合物エピタキシャル層が、 $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ 、または $\text{Ni}_{0.5}(\text{In}_{1-w}\text{Tl}_w)_{0.5}$ ($0 < w < 1$) であることを特徴とする請求項6記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項8】 前記半導体層の層厚が、2nm以上で200nm以下であることを特徴とする請求項6または7記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【請求項9】 前記半導体層が、p型の $\text{GaN}_{1-x_1}\text{As}_{x_1}$ 層 ($0 < x_1 < 0.2$) ウェル層とp型の $\text{GaN}_{1-x_2}\text{As}_{x_2}$ 層 ($0 \leq x_2 < x_1 < 0.2$) バリア層との超格子構造体であることを特徴とする請求項1または2記載の窒化物半導体発光素子。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、窒化物半導体発光素子に関する。さらに詳しくは、半導体レーザとして有効に用いられる窒化物半導体発光素子に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】GaN系の窒化物半導体を用いた発光ダイオード(LED)は、すでに製品化されており、現在ではGaN系窒化物半導体のレーザダイオード(LD)の

研究が精力的に進められている。たとえば、1996年ジャパニーズ・ジャーナル・オブ・アプライド・フィジックス誌35巻のL217ページに「劈開ミラー共振器面を有するInGaN多重量子井戸構造レーザダイオード」と題する報告がある。図14は、これに記載されたGaN系の窒化物半導体LD素子の断面構造を示す。これは、GaN系窒化物半導体レーザの発振波長415nmにおける室温パルス発振の報告である。GaN系窒化物半導体レーザは従来の赤色LDと較べて波長が短いので、高い記憶密度を有する次世代の光ディスク装置のピックアップ用光源として大きな注目を集めている。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、まだこのレーザの発振閾電流値での動作電圧は30Vと非常に高い。これは主にp型GaNコンタクト層とp電極との接触抵抗が大きいためである。図9は、金属電極とp型GaN半導体層界面のバンド構造を模式的に示す断面図である。GaNと金属電極との間には大きなショットキーバリアがある。GaNはバンドギャップが大きく、特にホールのショットキーバリアが大きい。GaN系窒化物半導体レーザの室温連続発振を達成するためには、特にp側のコンタクト抵抗を低減し、オーミックな接触を実現させ、レーザの動作電圧を下げるのが不可欠である。本発明は上記問題に鑑みなされたものであり、接触抵抗が小さく、低電圧動作が可能で、かつ高信頼性を有する窒化物半導体発光素子を提供することを目的とする。

【0004】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するため、本発明によれば、GaN系の窒化物半導体を用いた発光素子において、金属電極と接する部分の半導体層が、p型またはn型の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0005】また、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層が、As組成Xの異なる複数の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ 層 ($0 < x < 0.2$) を、そのAs組成Xが電極に近づくに従って大きくなるように組み合わせて構成されていることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0006】また、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層が、p型またはn型の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0007】また、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層が、P組成Yの異なる複数の、 $\text{GaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) または $\text{InGaN}_{1-y}\text{Py}$ 層 ($0 < y < 0.2$) を、そのP組成Yが電極に近づくに従って

て大きくなるように組み合わせて構成されていることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0008】また、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層の層厚が、1nm以上で100nm以下であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0009】また、その好ましい態様として、前記金属電極と前記半導体層との間に、さらに金属間化合物エピタキシャル層を、それぞれの層に隣接して形成してなることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0010】また、その好ましい態様として、前記金属間化合物エピタキシャル層が、 $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ 、または $\text{Ni}_{0.5}(\text{In}_{1-W}\text{Tl}_W)_{0.5}$ ($0 < W < 1$)であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0011】また、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層の層厚が、2nm以上で200nm以下であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0012】さらに、その好ましい態様として、前記半導体層が、p型の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層 ($0 < X < 0.2$) ウェル層とp型の $\text{GaN}_{1-X_2}\text{As}_{X_2}$ 層 ($0 \leq X_2 < X_1 < 0.2$) バリア層との超格子構造体であることを特徴とする窒化物半導体発光素子が提供される。

【0013】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態を具体的に説明する。本発明においては、金属電極と接する部分の半導体層として、p型またはn型の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ ($0 < X < 0.2$)、 $\text{InGa}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ ($0 < X < 0.2$)、 $\text{GaN}_{1-Y}\text{Py}$ ($0 < Y < 0.2$) および $\text{InGa}_{1-Y}\text{Py}$ ($0 < Y < 0.2$) が用いられる。以下p型GaNについて説明する。GaNに数%のAsを入れることで、バンドギャップをGaNより小さくすることができる。しかしながらAs組成Xを増やすと $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層は徐々に格子不整合を生じる。図10は、 $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ のAs組成Xと格子歪量 ϵ との関係を示すグラフである。例えば、GaN上の $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ 層の歪量は3.4%になる。図11は、 $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層のAs組成Xとバンドギャップの関係を示すグラフである。この図から $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ 層のバンドギャップは2.63eVであり、約0.77eVだけウルツ型GaNよりバンドギャップが小さくなっていることがわかる。図9に示す金属電極とp型半導体層界面のバンド構造の断面からわかるように、バンドギャップの小さい材料をコンタクト層に用いることで金属電極と半導体コンタクト層界面のホールのショットキーバリアの高さを小さくすることができる。

【0014】図12は、 $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層のAs組成Xと臨界膜厚の関係を示すグラフである。GaN系材料は非常に堅いので、GaN系材料の臨界膜厚はGaAs系材料の臨界膜厚より大きい。図12から、例えば $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ 層の臨界膜厚は16nmであることがわか

る。本発明の実施例の $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ 層コンタクト層の層厚は15nmなので、臨界膜厚以下である。良質な結晶を得るにはAs組成を制御し臨界膜厚以下の層厚にする必要がある。例えば1nm~100nmが好ましい。本発明の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ コンタクト層は、上で示したようにバンドギャップが小さくかつ臨界膜厚以下層厚を有する良質な結晶である。

【0015】バンドギャップが小さくかつ臨界膜厚以下の良質な結晶であればより高濃度のpドーピングを行うことができる。図9に示すように、高pドーピング濃度のコンタクト層は金属電極と半導体コンタクト層界面のホールのショットキーバリアの幅を小さくする作用がある。ショットキーバリアの幅が小さくなると素子の接触抵抗が低減し、素子の動作電圧が小さくなる。故に本発明の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層コンタクト層を有する窒化物半導体発光素子は、それがない素子に比べて、低抵抗、低動作電圧動作の特徴を有する。これによって動作時の発熱が抑えられるため半導体レーザの室温連続動作を達成する上で極めて効果的である。

【0016】 $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ や $\text{Ni}_{0.5}(\text{In}_{1-W}\text{Tl}_W)_{0.5}$ ($0 < W < 1$)などの金属間化合物層は金属と同様の高い電気伝導性を有する。 $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ と通常のウルツ型のGaNとの格子不整合歪量は2%であり、GaN上に薄膜の引張歪を有する $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ のエピタキシャル成長が可能である。 $\text{Ni}_{0.5}(\text{In}_{1-W}\text{Tl}_W)_{0.5}$ はTl組成Wを調整することでウルツ型のGaNと面内の格子定数を一致させることができるので厚膜の金属間化合物層が形成できる。圧縮歪の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ コンタクト層をGaN層と $\text{Ni}_{0.5}\text{In}_{0.5}$ や $\text{Ni}_{0.5}(\text{In}_{1-W}\text{Tl}_W)_{0.5}$ などの金属間化合物エピタキシャル層で挟んだ構造にすると、格子整合層によって両側から歪コンタクト層が支えられるため転位が入りにくくなり、臨界膜厚は2倍に増大する。図13は格子整合層によって両側から挟まれた $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ 層のAs組成Xと臨界膜厚の関係を示すグラフである。点線で示した曲線は両側から挟まれていない場合の臨界膜厚曲線である。前述の $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ コンタクト層よりAs組成Xが大きくバンドギャップが小さい $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ コンタクト層が得られるか、あるいは $\text{GaN}_{1-X}\text{As}_X$ コンタクト層の厚さを2倍に増大できることがわかる。例えばこのように格子整合層によって両側から $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ 層を挟むことによって、 $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ 層の臨界膜厚は4.3nmから19nmに増大する。図11から、 $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ 層のバンドギャップは1.917eVであることがわかる。これはGaAs基板に格子整合するGaInPのバンドギャップの大きさに等しい。このGaInPは 10^{19}cm^{-3} 台の高濃度pドーピングが可能である。GaNのバンドギャップは3.4eVであるから、 $\text{GaN}_{0.92}\text{As}_{0.08}$ 層を用いることで約1.5eVだけコンタクト層のバンドギャップが

減少したことになる。これは先程述べた $\text{GaN}_{0.96}\text{As}_{0.04}$ 層の場合の2倍の減少量である。

【0017】結局、上で述べたように、これらの金属間化合物エピタキシャル層を用いて両側から $\text{GaN}_{1-x}\text{As}_x$ コンタクト層を挟むことによって、さらにLD素子の接触抵抗が低減し、動作電圧が小さくなる効果がある。この場合の金属間化合物層の層厚は、5～200nmが好ましい。また、この金属間化合物層を用いた場合の半導体層の層厚は2～200nmが好ましい。

【0018】

【実施例】以下、本発明を実施例によってさらに具体的に説明する。

【実施例1】図1は、本発明の第1の実施例のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体発光素子(LD)の断面図である。図1に示すようにGa_{0.96}N系LDは、厚さ350μmのA面サファイア基板101、層厚30nmのGa_{0.96}Nバッファ層102、層厚3μmのn-Ga_{0.96}N層103、層厚100nmのn-In_{0.1}Ga_{0.9}N層104、層厚400nmのn-Al_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}N層105、層厚100nmのn-Ga_{0.96}N層106、InGa_{0.96}N/Ga_{0.96}N-MQW活性層107、層厚20nmのp-Al_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}Nクラッド層108、層厚100nmのp-Ga_{0.96}N層109、層厚400nmのp-Al_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}Nクラッド層110、層厚500nmのp-Ga_{0.96}Nクラッド層111、層厚15nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112、p電極113、n電極114からなる。InGa_{0.96}N-MQW活性層107は2.5nmのIn_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}Nウエル層と5nmのIn_{0.05}Ga_{0.95}Nバリア層の20周期の多重量子井戸(MQW)層である。各層に用いられるpドーパントはMg、nドーパントはSiである。本発明の特徴は層厚15nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112を有することにある。

【0019】上記のLDは有機金属気相エピタキシャル(MOVPE)成長法やガスソース分子線エピタキシャル(GSMBE)成長法を用いて作製できる。以下にMOVPE法による本発明の第1の実施例の上記LD素子の作製方法を述べる。以降の実施例においても以下に述べる製造方法を用いることができる。V族原料にはNH₃、AsH₃、III族原料には、トリメチルインジウム(TMIn)、トリメチルガリウム(TMGa)、トリメチルアルミニウム(TMAI)を用いる。pドーパント原料にはCP₂Mg、nドーパント原料にはSiH₄を用いる。

【0020】まずA面サファイア基板101を成長室である反応管に導入し、H₂キャリアガスを反応管に流した。その状態で基板を1150℃に昇温させ、10分間過熱したのち550℃に下げて、NH₃とTMGaを導入して層厚30nmのGa_{0.96}Nバッファ層102を成長させた。その後、H₂キャリアガスを反応管に流したまま基板温度を1000℃に上げてNH₃とTMGaとSiH

4を導入して層厚3μmのn-Ga_{0.96}N層103を成長させる。サファイア基板とGa_{0.96}Nには14%もの格子不整合があるが、低温成長のGa_{0.96}Nバッファ層102を最初に成長させ、かつその層厚を制御することで結晶性のよいGa_{0.96}Nが得られた。次にTMInを導入しクラッキング防止のための層厚100nmのn-In_{0.1}Ga_{0.9}N層104を成長させた。このようにして順次成長させた。本発明の特徴であるp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112はNH₃とAsH₃とTMGaとCP₂Mgを導入して成長させた。pドーピング濃度は $5 \times 10^{18} \text{cm}^{-3}$ 以上とした。p-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112の層厚を15nmとすることで臨界膜厚以内の良好な品質の結晶が得られた。成長後は600℃の温度で1時間熱アニールを行い結晶中に取り込まれたH原子を追い出し、Mgを活性化させp濃度を向上させた。

【0021】成長終了後の降温はサファイア基板が割れないようにゆっくり行なった。ウエハを取り出した後、p-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112上にp電極113を付け、エッチングを行いn-Ga_{0.96}N層103にn電極114を取り付けてLD素子を得た。以下の実施例のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体LDの活性層を含む本体の構造は共通であり、コンタクト層および電極の部分が異なるだけである。従って本発明は任意の構造のLDに適用可能である。

【0022】【実施例2】図2は、本発明の第2の実施例のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図2に示すように、p-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112の部分のみが異なる以外は第1の実施例と同じLD構造である。即ち、第2実施例は、第1実施例の層厚15nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112を層厚20nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.01}N_{0.99}コンタクト層201、層厚5nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.02}N_{0.98}コンタクト層202、層厚10nmのp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層203からなるステップコンタクト層204に置き換えた構造のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体LDである。ステップコンタクト層204ではコンタクト層のバンドギャップの大きさがAs組成の増大によって徐々に小さくなっている。これにより、p-Ga_{0.96}Nクラッド層111とp-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層203との急激なバンドギャップ差を緩和できるので素子の抵抗を下げることができる。

【0023】【実施例3】図3は、本発明の第3の実施例のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図3に示すように、p-Ga_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層112を層厚20nmのp-Ga_{0.96}P_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層301に置き換えた構造のLDであり、それ以外は第1の実施例と同じ構造のGa_{0.96}N系窒化物半導体LDである。GaP_xN_{1-x}もP組成Xの増加と共にバンドギャップが大きく低下する性質を有する。また、GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96}はGa_{0.96}As_{0.04}N_{0.96}よりGa_{0.96}Nに対する歪量が少

ないのでコンタクト層の厚さを大きくとれる利点がある。

【0024】[実施例4] 図4は、本発明の第4の実施例のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図4に示すように、実施例2のステップコンタクト層204を、層厚5nmのp-GaP_{0.01}N_{0.99}コンタクト層401と層厚5nmのp-GaP_{0.02}N_{0.98}コンタクト層402と層厚12nmのp-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層403からなるステップコンタクト層404に置き換えた構造のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDである。ステップコンタクト層404により、p-GaNクラッド層111とp-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層403との急激なバンドギャップ差を緩和できるので素子の抵抗を下げることができる。

【0025】[実施例5] 図5は、本発明の第5の実施例のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図5に示すように、層厚15nmのp-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層501とp電極113の間に層厚15nmのNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層502を挟んだ構造をしている以外は実施例1と同構造のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDである。Ni_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層502は引張歪であり、p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層501は圧縮歪なので、これらを組み合わせることで歪補償しあい全体の歪量は低減されている。これらの金属間化合物の結晶構造はCsCl型であり、GaAsやInP等のIII-V化合物半導体の閃亜鉛鉱型結晶構造やGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}のウルツ型結晶構造とは異なっている。しかしながらNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}の格子定数3.1はウルツ型Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}の面内格子定数3.16にほぼ等しいため、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}上へのエピタキシャル成長が可能である。p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層501までは上述した成長条件で行う。しかしながらGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}上の金属間化合物薄膜の結晶成長は、異種原子構造のヘテロエピタキシャル成長なので、通常とは異なる成長条件が必要である。

【0026】以下にこの実施例で用いたGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}上の金属間化合物層の成長方法を述べる。Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}上に金属間化合物層を成長させる際には、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}半導体層の表面をGaの単原子層で覆い、成長室の残留V族の量を十分に落とし、次に金属間化合物層の遷移金属であるNiを1原子層成長させてから、Ni_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層を成長させた。金属間化合物層の成長温度は低温で行った。マイグレーション・エンハンスドエピタキシー(MEE)成長ならば350℃程度、MBE成長ならば450℃程度である。但し、格子整合系の金属間化合物層においては、250℃程度の成長温度でInP上にMEE成長させてもよい。

【0027】[実施例6] 図6は、本発明の第6の実施例のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図6に示すように実施例5のNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層502を、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合した層厚50nmのNi_{0.5}

(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層602で置き換えた構造をしていること以外は実施例5と同構造のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDである。Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層602でp-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}コンタクト層501を挟むことにより、1.5eVのバンドギャップの低減が実現できる。Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層602はGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合しているので、高品質で厚膜の金属間化合物のエピタキシャル電極が形成できる。

【0028】[実施例7] 図7は、本発明の第7の実施例のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図7に示すように、層厚19nmのp-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}コンタクト層701、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合した層厚10nmのNi_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層702、層厚10nmのNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層703、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合した層厚50nmのNi_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層704からなるコンタクト層構造を有するGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDである。Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合した層厚10nmのNi_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層702はp-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}コンタクト層701とNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層703の界面歪の急激な変化を改善するための緩和層である。

【0029】[実施例8] 図8は、本発明の第8の実施例のGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。図8に示すように、層厚5nmのp-GaAs_{0.01}N_{0.99}バリア層801と層厚3nmのp-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}ウエル層802の5周期の超格子コンタクト層804とGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}に格子整合した層厚50nmのNi_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層803からなるコンタクト層構造を有するGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}系窒化物半導体LDである。ホールは層厚40nmの超格子コンタクト層804を共鳴トンネルで透過し金属電極に到達することができるため接触抵抗が低減する。

【0030】

【発明の効果】本発明におけるコンタクト層は、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}の半分のバンドギャップを有しかつ臨界膜厚以下の層厚を有する良質なp型Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}As_x結晶である。バンドギャップが小さいため5×10¹⁸cm⁻³以上の高濃度のpドーピングを行うことができる。本発明に用いられるNi_{0.5}In_{0.5}やNi_{0.5}(In_{1-x}Tl_x)_{0.5}などの金属間化合物層は、Ga_{0.99}N_{0.01}As_x歪コンタクト層をGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}層とて挟んで支えるため転位が入りにくくなり、臨界膜厚は2倍に増大する。従って、よりバンドギャップの小さいGa_{0.99}N_{0.01}As_x層をコンタクト層に用いることができる。その結果、金属電極と半導体コンタクト層界面のホールのショットキーバリアの幅と高さを半減させることができる。これによって窒化物半導体発光素子の接触抵抗が大きく低減し、通常のGaAs基板上のLD素子に近い動作電圧が得られる。その結果、動

作時の発熱が抑えられるため窒化物半導体レーザの室温連続動作を達成することができる。それに加えて、窒化物半導体レーザの閾値、温度特性、信頼性を著しく向上させることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の第1の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図2】本発明の第2の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図3】本発明の第3の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図4】本発明の第4の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図5】本発明の第5の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図6】本発明の第6の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図7】本発明の第7の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図8】本発明の第8の実施例のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LDの断面図である。

【図9】金属電極とp型半導体層界面のバンド構造を模式的に示す断面図である。

【図10】Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}As_x層のAs組成Xと格子歪量εとの関係を示すグラフである。

【図11】Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}As_x層のAs組成Xとバンドギャップの関係を示すグラフである。

【図12】Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}As_x層のAs組成Xと臨界膜厚の関係を示すグラフである。

【図13】両側から挟まれたGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}As_x層のAs組成Xと臨界膜厚の関係を示すグラフである。

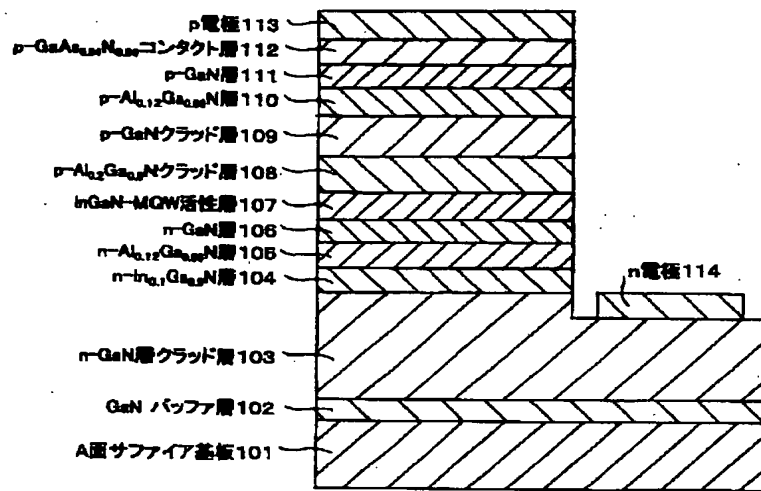
【図14】従来のGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}系窒化物半導体LD素子の構造を示す断面図である。

【符号の説明】

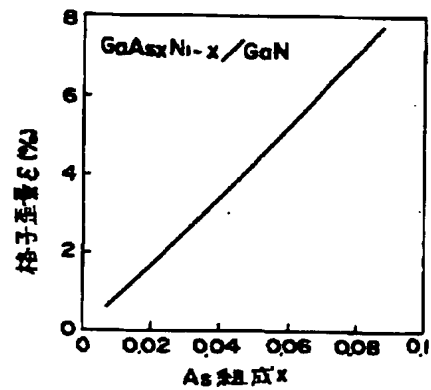
101 A面サファイア基板
102 Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}バッファ層
103 n-Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}層
104 n-In_{0.1}Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}層
105 n-Al_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}N_{0.1}層
106 n-Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}層

107 InGa_{0.9}N_{0.1}/Ga_{0.9}N_{0.1}-MQW活性層
108 p-Al_{0.2}Ga_{0.8}Nクラッド層
109 p-Ga_{0.9}N層
110 p-Al_{0.15}Ga_{0.85}Nクラッド層
111 p-Ga_{0.9}Nクラッド層
112 p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層
113 p電極
114 n電極
201 p-GaAs_{0.01}N_{0.99}コンタクト層
202 p-GaAs_{0.02}N_{0.98}コンタクト層
203 p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層
204 ステップコンタクト層
301 p-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層
401 p-GaP_{0.01}N_{0.99}コンタクト層
402 p-GaP_{0.02}N_{0.98}コンタクト層
403 p-GaP_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層
404 ステップコンタクト層
501 p-GaAs_{0.04}N_{0.96}コンタクト層
502 Ni_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層
602 Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層
701 p-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}コンタクト層
702 Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層
703 Ni_{0.5}In_{0.5}金属間化合物層
704 Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層
801 p-GaAs_{0.01}N_{0.99}バリア層
802 p-GaAs_{0.08}N_{0.92}ウエル層
803 Ni_{0.5}(Tl_xIn_{1-x})_{0.5}金属間化合物層
804 超格子コンタクト層
901 伝導帯
902 フェルミレベル
903 価電子帯
904 ショットキーバリアの幅
905 ショットキーバリアの高さ
906 ホール
907 金属電極
908 p型半導体層

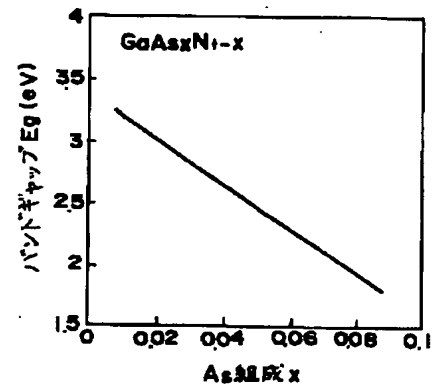
【図1】



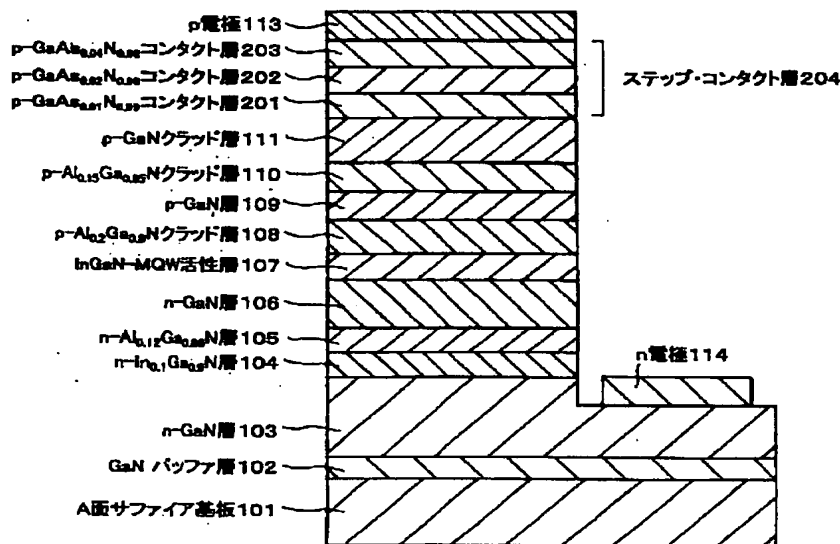
【図10】



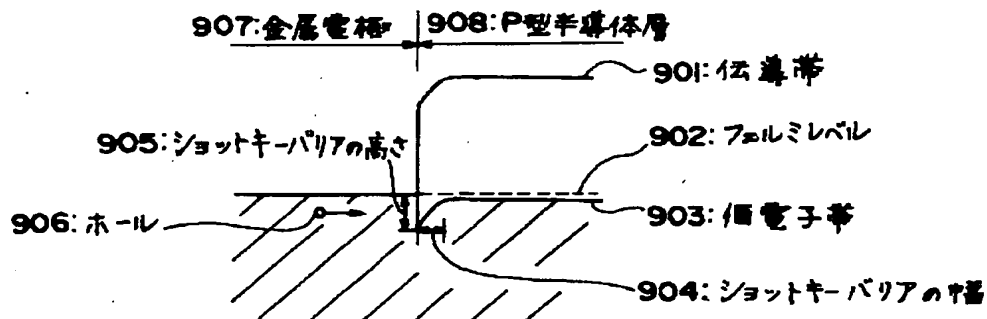
【図11】



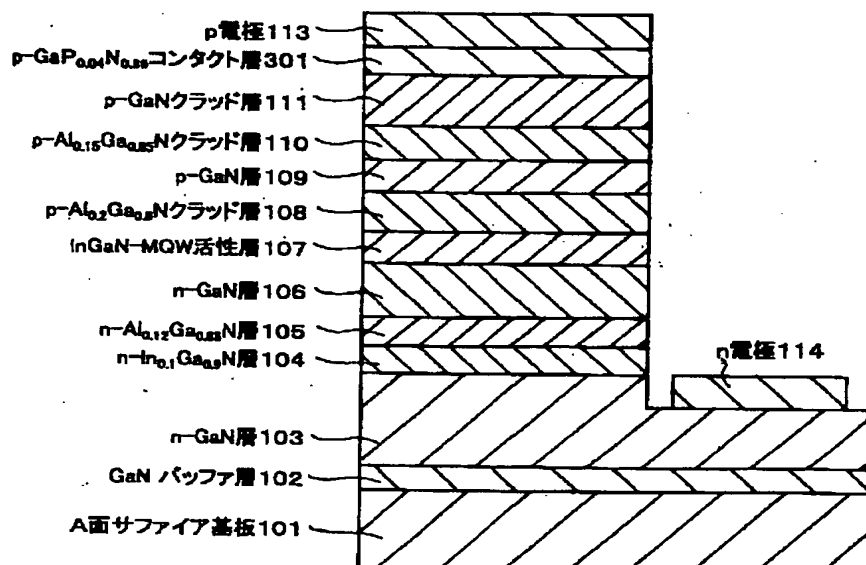
【図2】



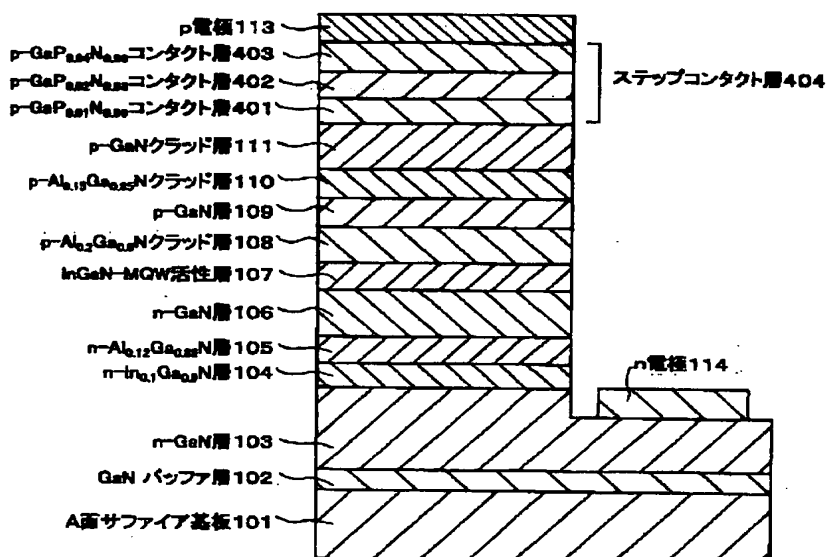
【図9】



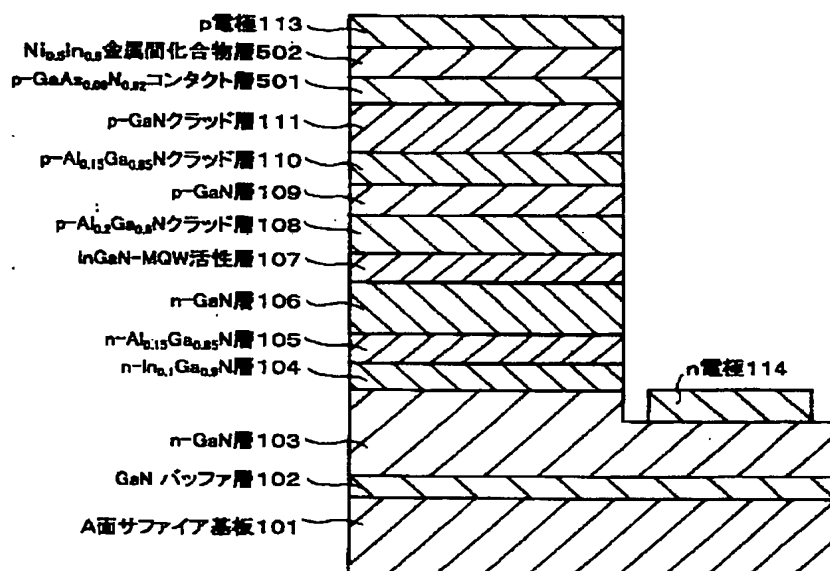
【図3】



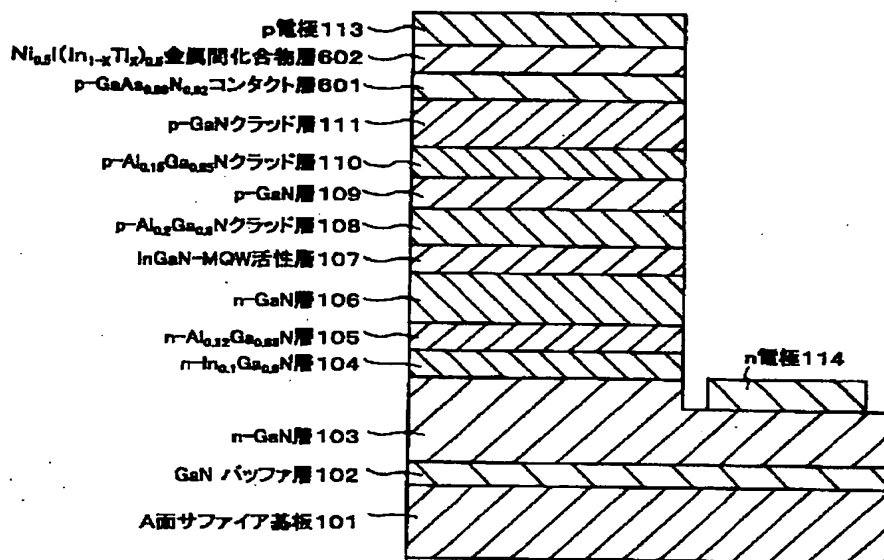
【図4】



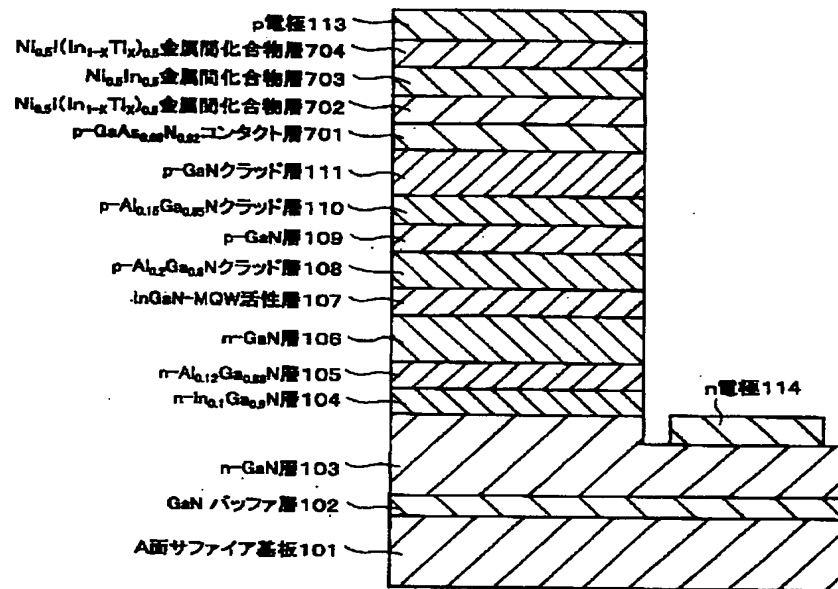
【図5】



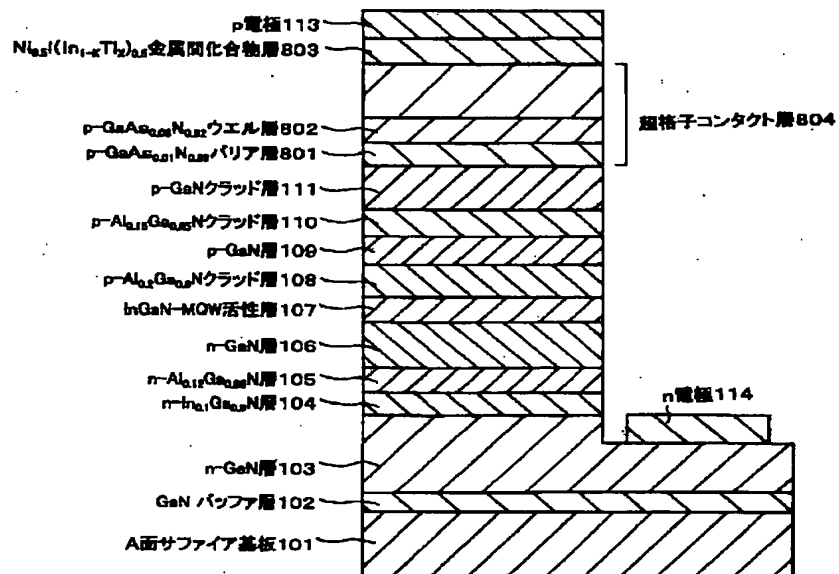
【図6】



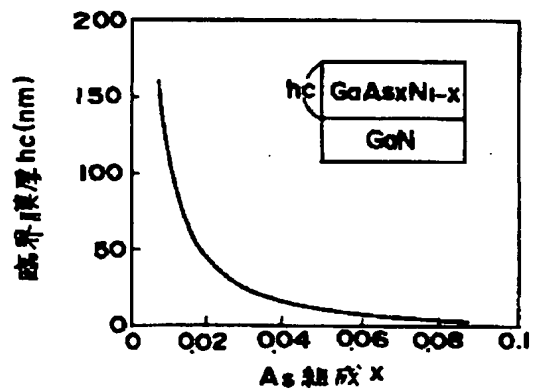
【図7】



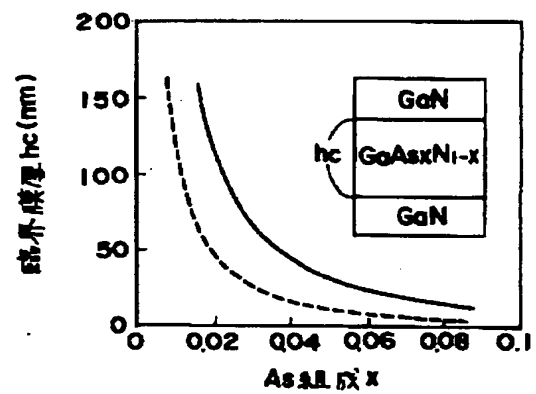
【図8】



【図12】



【図13】



【図14】

